

In the preferred embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1, the walls 48 extend radially outward in the disk-shaped end chamber, from first ends 50 near the passage 24 to second ends 52 touching the inner shell 35 and approaching the annulus. The walls 48 and channels 46 can be provided in the form of a single-piece baffle assembly having a back plate 54 mounted to an inner wall of the end chamber by a plurality of fasteners 56. The walls 48 are provided by baffles which are mounted to the back plate 54, to provide the single-piece assembly which can be easily inserted, removed, and replaced in the end chamber.

In the Claims:

Please replace pending Claims 1, 14, and 20 with the following replacement Claims 1, 14 and 20, respectively:

1. (Amended) A thermal transfer roller, comprising:
 - an outer shell and an inner shell coaxially positioned within the outer shell to define a continuous annulus between an inner surface of the outer shell and an outer surface of the inner shell;
 - at least an inlet end chamber in fluid communication with the annulus;
 - a passage in communication with the annulus, the passage extending between an inlet end of the thermal transfer roller and an outlet end of the thermal transfer roller; and

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a plurality of inlet channels in the inlet end chamber, each inlet channel having a first end closer to the passage and a second end closer to the annulus; wherein each inlet channel becomes progressively wider along a plane which includes a circumference of the inlet end chamber between the first end and the second end thereof.

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14. (Amended) A thermal transfer roller, comprising:

an outer shell and an inner shell coaxially positioned within the outer shell to define a continuous annulus between an inner surface of the outer shell and an outer surface of the inner shell;

an inlet end chamber positioned at an inlet end of the thermal transfer roller and in communication with the annulus;

a plurality of inlet channels in the inlet end chamber, each having a wider end closer to the annulus and a narrower end further away from the annulus, wherein each inlet channel becomes progressively wider along a plane which includes a circumference of the inlet end chamber between the narrower end and the wider end thereof;

an outlet end chamber positioned at an outlet end of the thermal transfer roller and in communication with the annulus;

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a plurality of outlet channels in the outlet end chamber, each having a wider end closer to the annulus and a narrower end further away from the annulus, wherein each outlet channel becomes progressively wider along a plane which includes a circumference of the outlet end chamber between the narrower end and the wider end thereof; and

a passage in communication with the annulus, the passage extending between the inlet end of the thermal transfer roller and the outlet end of the thermal transfer roller.

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20. (Twice Amended) A thermal transfer roller, comprising:

an inlet end chamber in communication with a source of fluid;

a continuous annulus in communication with the inlet end chamber, the continuous annulus defined by an inner surface of an outer cylindrical shell and an outer surface of an inner cylindrical shell;

a plurality of inlet channels in the inlet end chamber, each inlet channel having a wider end closer to the annulus, and a narrower end, wherein adjacent inlet channels are separated by a wall having a substantially uniform thickness; and

a passage in communication with the annulus, the passage extending between an inlet end of the thermal transfer roller and an outlet end of the thermal transfer roller.
